

May 11, 2018

The President
THE WHITE HOUSE
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C.

Re: Xiyue Wang, Princeton Student Unjustly Imprisoned by Iran

Dear President Trump,

Thank you for reminding the world that Iran must stop its unjust detention of foreigners, including American citizens. I am writing to you as a wife and a young mother. My husband, Xiyue Wang, is an American citizen and graduate student at Princeton University. Held since August 2016 in very harsh conditions in Iran's Evin prison, Xiyue wants to come home and we need your help and that of the U.S. government. This week we witnessed the three former hostages in North Korea returning to their homeland. We are hopeful that, Mr. President, you can achieve a similar breakthrough in Xiyue's situation and bring him back swiftly. Please, Mr. President, will you please hear our story and show your support for this American citizen?

My husband is an innocent man, Mr. President. He has been imprisoned solely because he is an American. He is being used as a hostage and pawn by Iranian hardliners in their negotiations with the United States. Xiyue is completely innocent of the charges against him. He is a scholar interested in the languages, history, and civilizations of Eurasia. He has been fearless and dedicated in his pursuit of knowledge and his desire to build connections across borders.

Before he was arrested, Xiyue was studying Farsi and conducting archival research on the Qajar dynasty of the 19th century Iran for his doctoral dissertation. His topic is a comparative analysis of governance practices in Central Asia in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He had been attempting to read historical documents kept in the national archives of Iran. He had obtained permission from the relevant Iranian authorities, who were also aware of his research plans in advance. The documents he needed to read were not classified. Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs even wrote him a letter of introduction!

My husband is a good man, Mr. President. He is a proud American citizen, a dedicated student, a devoted husband and a loving father to our five year-old son, Shaofan. I miss him terribly. As time goes by, I fear more and more for his safety. Xiyue is being held in the notorious Evin Prison, in an area that is mostly underground, cold and dark, badly overcrowded and infested with bedbugs.

As an American and a non-Muslim, Xiyue has been subjected to abuse and harsh interrogations by the authorities. He is in constant pain from health problems caused by these conditions. He is losing hope. Meanwhile, it is harder and harder for Shaofan to remember his father, and it is hard for our son to grow up with a mother who is always sad and worried. Please, bring Xiyue home and make our family whole again.

Struggling to raise Shaofan by myself, I feel very alone with my husband far away. I am doing all I can for his release, but months pass and nothing I do is enough. I am very grateful for the help that Xiyue and I have received from Princeton University and the State Department. But, without your help, Mr President, I am afraid that nothing will happen. You are a skilled negotiator, and you have brought North Korea to the bargaining table when other presidents and conventional diplomats have failed. Sir, I hope that you will carry on this good work to bring this innocent American scholar

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that is being held by the Iranian regime home as well. Only you can bring him home. Please, Mr. President, you are our hope and we are counting on you.

Most Respectfully,

Hua Qu

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Quttna" or "Quttna", written in a cursive style.